

allowed.

Upon filing this application, Applicant has canceled claims 2-8 prior to calculated the filing fee. Thus, for the purposes of this preliminary amendment, only claim 1 remains in the application.

By way of this preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended and claim 1 has been canceled in favor of new claims 9-24.

New claims 9-18 are directed at methods of determining whether or not an individual has metastasized colorectal cancer. The methods of new claims 9-13 comprise examining a sample of extraintestinal tissue and/or body fluids from an individual to detect ST receptor protein. Support for new claims 9-13 is found throughout the specification such as on page 10 line 32 to page 22 line 9. The methods of new claims 14-18 comprise examining a sample of extraintestinal tissue and/or body fluids from an individual to detect mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein. Support for new claims 14-18 is found throughout the specification such as on page 10 line 32 to page 14 line 26, and on page 25 line 28 to page 34 line 19. No new matter has been added.

New claims 19-24 are directed at kits useful to perform methods according to the invention. The kits of new claims 19-21 are directed at kits for performing immunoassays to detect the presence of ST receptor protein. Support for new claims 19-21 is found throughout the specification such as on page 10 line 32 to page 22 line 9. The kits of new claims 23-24 are directed at kits for performing PCR assays to detect the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein. Support for new claims 23-24 is found throughout the specification such as on

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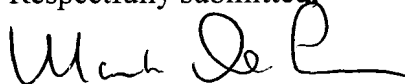
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page 25 line 28 to page 28 line 37. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to include the required reference to government support and cross reference to related applications. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that claims 9-24 be allowed at this time. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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